(d) All aircrafts in NACIL, into which Air India and Indian Airliens have merged, are maintained as per approved schedule/programme. Further, regulatory agencies such as DGCA, EASA, IOSA, ICAO etc. carry out safety audits from time to time.

High level of fluoride and arsenic in ground water

*579. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent study by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) had indicated that the ground water in over 200 districts of the country has a high level of flouride and arsenic, posing a big public-health hazard;

(b) whether it is also a fact that among 184 districts across 19 States, Rajasthan is the worst placed with all its 32 districts at risk, while Orissa and Gujarat have 18 districts in the danger list, as revealed in the CGWB website; and

(c) if so, the steps Government has taken to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) periodically monitors ground water quality at regional level. The analysis of samples has indicated high concentration of Fluoride and Arsenic in isolated pockets of 221 districts and 30 districts respectively, in various States. The permissible limit for Fluoride and Arsenic content in drinking water is 1.5 milligram per litre and 0.01 milligram per litre respectively.

In the State of Rajasthan, sporadic occurrence of Fluoride has been reported from all the 33 districts. Isolated pockets of 24 districts in Gujarat and 18 districts in Orissa are also affected with Fluoride contamination.

The steps taken to address the above problems include the following:

(i) Exploration is conducted by CGWB to find out ground water sources free from Arsenic/Fluoride contaminants.

(ii) Technical guidance is provided to the State agencies in tackling the problem of water quality and to take initiatives for capacity building of personnel of State Drinking Water Supply agencies.

(iii) Financial and technical assistance is provided to States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for provision of safe drinking water to the rural population as per the stipulated norms.

(iv) Financial assistance is provided to States under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT).

Cost overrun of pending projects

*580. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many projects, including the joint ventures of the Ministry, its PSUs and subordinate offices costing over rupees 20 crore or more are running behind schedule;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay and the total estimated cost overrun; and

(c) what are the changes proposed in these projects to complete them expeditiously and to save cost?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) As many as 59 projects costing over Rs. 20 crore of the Oil PSUs and other organizations of Ministry of Petroleum are running behind schedule. However, except in 6 projects (3 of Indian Oil Corporation Limited, 2 of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, one of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited), in no other case any cost escalation is expected.

Reasons for the delay in execution of the projects generally are:—

(i) Change in layout due to alternate approach road.

(ii) Delay in forest clearance.

(iii) Unfavourable sea conditions.

(iv) Frequent stoppage of work enroute pipeline due to intervention of antisocial elements, extortion, manhandling of contractor personnel, theft etc.

(v) Court case pertaining land dispute.

(vi) Unprecedented floods for the considerable period.

(vii) Unprecedented longer weather standby of marine spread due to bad weather conditions in West Coast.

(viii) Early demobilization construction spread by sub-contractor in Booster Compressor Platform-A2 project to other company's project in East Coast.

(ix) In adequate deployment of resources, manpower & machinery.

(x) Delay in engineering, procurement of main equipment and bulk materials (Group Gathering Station-I & Group Gathering Station-II, Rudrasagar, Agartala Dome Gas Collecting Station, Value Added Project Kuthalam).

(xi) Contractual obligations in Limbodra field project and Baramura Gas Collecting Station expansion.

(xii) Delay in preparing/handling over installation site (at Effluent Treatment Plant, Narimannam) after demolition.

(xiii) Delay in finalization of engineering inputs by the contractors with consequential effect on procurement, fabrication, finalization of load out, marine spread for transportation and installation & related engineering.

Cost overrun in case of 6 delayed projects is an under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Name of Oil PSUs	No. of Projects	Original Estimated cost	Revised cost
IOCL	3	779.02	Yet to be assessed
BPCL	1	5277	10378
HPCL	2	2788.13	3878.79

No change in these ongoing projects are proposed.